



# The Pipeline

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## Congratulations!!

\*\* Kentucky Protection and Permanency Services are now fully accredited by the Council on Accreditation for Children and Family Services.

## Welcome!!

\*\* Ann Johnson has been promoted from Service Region Administrator Associate to Service Region Administrator for the Gateway/Buffalo Trace Service Region effective Oct. 16. Please welcome Ann to her new position!



*Karen Asher, dressed as a can of beef stew, hands Donna Britton of the Secretary's Office a reminder about KCCVS's can drive for Make a Difference Day as KCCVS Director Eileen Cackowski watches.*

## KCCVS: Staff can make a difference with stew donations

*By Anya Armes Weber*

There's still time to make a difference!

The Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service (KCCVS) has been collecting cans of beef stew or vegetable soup all this week to celebrate "Make a Difference Day" on Saturday, Oct. 26. Today is the last day you can leave your cans in the collection boxes near the escalators.

Last year, enough stew was collected to feed 19,970 Kentuckians. This year's goal is to triple that number, KCCVS Director Eileen Cackowski said.

The food drive is happening across the state, said Karen Asher, youth programs and access coordinator in the KCCVS office. Schools and businesses will count their collections and send the tally to the KCCVS office.

KCCVS staff decided last year to collect cans of beef stew because it serves as a simple meal families could eat even if their power was out, Asher said.

Asher dressed as a beef stew can this week, greeting Quality Central staff in the CHR and other CFC office buildings and reminding them to bring in their cans.

The food will benefit charities in the cities it is collected. Cans collected in Quality Central will be donated to local shelters, senior centers and food banks, Asher said.

Communities nationwide are celebrating Make a Difference Day, which is sponsored by USA WEEKEND magazine and the Points of Light Foundation. National projects have included collecting books for children, building a Habitat for Humanity house and assembling "welcome baby boxes" for needy families.

USA WEEKEND will feature Make a Difference Day volunteers and their projects in articles and photos in April during National Volunteer Week. Ten projects each will win \$10,000, contributed by Paul Newman.

For more information about Make a Difference Day, log onto <http://usaweekend.com/diffday/index.html>

## CFC community partner gets \$287,000 grant from USDA

*By Dean Crawford*

The Kentucky Task Force on Hunger (KTFH), a CFC Community Partner, received a \$287,985 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to improve access to and awareness of the USDA's Food Stamp Program.

Anne Joseph, the director of KTFH, received the check from Eric M. Bost, the undersecretary for food, nutrition, and consumer services, at a ceremony in the library of the Family Care Center in Lexington on Oct. 22. The Family Care Center was also celebrating its 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

"It was the first time KTFH had applied for a federal grant in a while," Joseph said after the ceremony, "and we were one of 19 states to receive a grant."

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*Ann Joseph and Rosalind Harris, KTFH, display the “check” for the \$287,985 grant.*

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“The grant will enable us to do work that will be an important contribution to the community at large,” she said. “We’ll be looking for low wage earners, legal immigrants, children, and the elderly among other groups that are eligible for food stamps but aren’t receiving them. We will help families stretch their food dollars and that will improve their health and nutrition. Families will have more money to spend on food, which in turn impacts a community’s economy. It’s a win-win situation for everybody.”

About 75 people including representatives from the USDA, CFC, the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, and the Lexington Media attended the presentation ceremony. Joseph and Bost headed up a list of dignitaries that included Virgil Conrad of the USDA, Dietra Paris and Tim Jackson of CFC, and Rosalind Harris of KTFH.

Nancy Rawlings, formerly of CFC and now the Commissioner for the LFUCG Department of Social Services, welcomed everyone to the ceremony. She introduced Conrad, who in turn introduced Bost.

“The Food Stamp Program is not a welfare program,” Bost said. “It’s a health and nutrition program. It’s there to feed hungry people.”

Bost said it was a major effort of the Bush administration to make sure everyone eligible for food stamps gets them. Ten million people in the United

State are eligible for food stamps, but they don’t know it. Fifty percent of the people who receive food stamps are children, and 60 percent are working.

“State and local organizations provide unique approaches to reach eligible people, and that’s what these grants are all about,” Bost said

When Bost finished his remarks, he presented a very large check, in size and monetary value, to Anne Joseph. During the presentation he quipped: “I know the check is good because I signed it.”

Anne Joseph sat the check aside and read a list of KTFH’s community partners. The Cabinet for Families and Children was at the top of the list. When she finished, Joseph introduced Rosalind Harris from the University of Kentucky, who wrote the KTFH grant proposal entitled *A Tale of Two Cities: Confronting Hunger Amidst Plenty In Lexington-Fayette County Kentucky*.

“Within Fayette County working poor families with children have been especially affected by the growth of service sector jobs that pay less than a living wage,” Harris said. “And without adequate incomes it has been difficult for many families to meet basic food needs.”

She said that many groups who qualify for food stamps are not aware that they are eligible, or they chose not to participate for other reasons. Many of the reasons for non-participation are known, but other reasons still need to be understood.

“This project is therefore designed to make low-income families and other groups aware of the Food Stamp Program, and at the same time attempt to understand what the barriers to participation have been.”

Dietra Paris, the Commissioner of the Department for Community Based Services concluded the ceremony by saying: “DCBS is eager and able to partner in the effort to eliminate the barriers that keep people from participating in the Food Stamp

Program. Some of the barriers are puzzling and troubling. Kentucky is doing well making food stamps accessible, but there is always room for improvement. We want to learn how to improve customer service.”

After the ceremony, Bost said 450,000 Kentuckians receive food stamps, and that Kentucky ranks among the top five states in making food stamps accessible to those who are eligible. Eighty-five percent of the people eligible for food stamps in Kentucky receive them.

Joseph said there has been a decrease in food stamp participation since 1996, when the Welfare Reform law passed.

## Food safety tips for Halloween



Halloween is on the way, bringing fun for Kentucky’s children as they go out and collect treats to eat. The Cabinet for Health Services wishes to provide some general guidelines to ensure this Halloween is as safe as possible for our children.

- Only visit homes and businesses that you are familiar with.
- Don’t take candy or treats from persons who you do not know.
- Only eat candy that has been commercially made and wrapped.
- Do not eat candy if the outer wrapper has been noticeably altered.
- Homemade treats should not be eaten unless you know and trust the person who made them.
- Do not eat any candy or food that is unwrapped or appears to have been tampered with.
- Do not eat any candy or food that appears to have a powder or dust on it.
- Always wash your hands before eating any foods.
- After handling any unclean food products, wash your hands thoroughly.
- Be conscious of choking hazards such as gum, peanuts, hard candies, or small toys as treats to small children.